## Claims

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- 1 1. A method of controlling link adaptation in a communication link at least one end of the communication link have a transmission codec having a plurality of modes of 2 3 operation, the method comprising: monitoring the condition of a received signal, and forwarding an instruction to change the mode of operation of the transmission codec 4 responsive to a change in the condition of the received signal.
  - 2. The method of claim 1 in which there is a minimum period between the forwarding of successive instructions.
    - 3. The method of claim 2 in which the minimum period is 160ms.
  - 4. The method of claim 1 in which the instruction to change the codec mode of operation is a command or a request.
  - 5. The method of claim 1 in which both ends of the communication link have a transmission codec.
  - 6. The method of claim 5 in which one end of the communication link forwards a command to change the codec mode of operation and the other end of the communication link forwards a request to change the codec mode of operation.
- 7. The method of claim 1 in which the communication link is a link in a mobile 2 communications system.
  - 8. The method of claim 7 in which the mobile communications system is a packet switched system.
  - 9. A device for maintaining a communication link with another device, including: means for receiving a signal from the other device; means for monitoring the condition of the received signal; means, responsive to a change in the condition of the received

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- 4 signal, for determining a new mode of operation of a transmission codec, and means for
- 5 transmitting the new mode of operation of the transmission codec to the other device
- 6 responsive to the change in the condition of the received signal.
- 10. The device of claim 9 wherein the means for transmitting the new mode of
- 2 operation is controlled such that there is a minimum period between successive
- 3 transmissions: